

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

NEUROSURGERY

Pain and the Neurosurgeon. A 40-year experience. By J. C. White, M.D., F.A.C.S. and W. H. Sweet, M.D., D.Sc., F.A.C.S. Pp. xxxi + 1 000. Illustrated. \$37.00. Springfield Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

The senior author of this book, Dr James White, has had over 40 years' experience of surgical attempts to relieve pain, while his junior, Dr Sweet, has had over 30 years of such work. Together they have treated and followed-up, often over many years, more than 1 700 patients, so that their knowledge of this subject is profound. The authors have wisely left out much of the fundamental anatomy in this large book—it is available in their first edition and in many other sources.

Although there are many controversial aspects of surgery as a means of dealing with pain, anyone reading this book will be able to judge just what the limitations are, as the detailed case notes give a lucid picture of the results, both in terms of the patient's reaction and in how those around him assessed the situation. It is a great pleasure to read such clear and precise English.

This is a truly magnificent book. Its format, photographs and illustrations could not be bettered, and for the physician who wants to know what his surgical colleagues can do, as

well as for the surgeons themselves, one can recommend this massive volume unreservedly.

J.M.M.

BODY FLUID REPLACEMENT

Body Fluid Replacement in the Surgical Patient. Proceedings of an International Symposium held during May 1969. Ed. by C. L. Fox, jnr, M.D. and G. G. Nahas, M.D. Pp. xvi + 374. Illustrated. \$25.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

Body fluid replacement in the surgical patient is the subject of a symposium sponsored by the Departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in association with the Division of Medical Sciences and the National Research Council of the USA. In view of much ignorant and irrational parenteral therapy, this book is a timely publication dealing in a practical fashion with blood, colloid, water, electrolyte replacement and high caloric solutions for parenteral feeding—all not only of vital importance for success in modern surgery, but also for the prevention of mortality and morbidity.

It is a valuable guide for those entrusted with the care of surgical patients, and also to anaesthetists, paediatricians, physicians and students.

H.G.-W.

PRENATAL LIFE

Prenatal Life. Biological and clinical perspectives. Proceedings of the Third Annual Symposium on the Physiology and Pathology of Human Reproduction. Ed. by H. C. Mack, M.D. Pp. 249. Illustrated. \$10.95. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. 1970.

This book contains the proceedings of a symposium on the physiology and pathology of human reproduction held by the Wayne State University School of Medicine. A wide range of studies is dealt with by a band of distinguished authorities from a variety of biological spheres and drawn largely from the Americas.

The central theme of this work is the physiology of labour and the well-being of the foetus in so far as it may help to reduce perinatal mortality and morbidity of human offspring.

The volume should be of particular interest to academic workers and teachers.

E.M.S.

PERIPHERAL MANIPULATION

Peripheral Manipulation. By G. D. Maitland, A.U.A. Pp. xi + 176. Illustrated. R6.00. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1970.

Maitland's many techniques of manual mobilization of peripheral joints are excellently illustrated by numerous line drawings. Also described is a system of recording the range of movement in the abnormal joint in relation to the altering patterns of pain and spasm which restrict it.

Stress is laid on the fact that the least possible force should be used to produce the desired effect and that mobilization is guided solely by pain.

Patients are graded according to signs and symptoms rather than pathology and accurate assessment and careful variation of manual techniques should ensure more precise treatment and therefore a speedier recovery.

P.P.